

## Leviticus 26 - Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- In Leviticus chapter 26, God is going to give the Israelites a motivation of sorts, as it relates to their obedience to His commands.
- Here-to-for God has given them His laws and now, He gives them both the consequences of disobedience and blessing of obedience.
- I suppose you could say that this study will show us what a blessed life looks like, and conversely, what a cursed life will look like.

1 'You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God. 2 You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD. 3 If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,

- God begins by prohibiting them from making idols, commanding them to keep His Sabbaths and reverence His Sanctuary.
- Notice God says the choice is theirs when He says; "IF" you walk in My statutes, and "IF" you keep my commands and perform them.
- It's interesting to note that the word "if" is used 32 times in this chapter, and it underscores the importance of our choosing obedience.
- In other words, if you do this, then I will do this, as we'll see in the next verse. These blessings and promises of God are conditional.

4 then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. 5 Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. 6 I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.

- Here God not only promises to provide, but that His provisions will last for as long as they need and that they would be fulfilled.
- Also, it's important to understand that He would also provide them with peace and protection from harm and danger while in the land.
- This characterizes a blessed life in that it's marked by no fear of man or beast because an obedient life is a peaceful and protected life.

**Proverbs 16:7** When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.

None shall make you afraid. - But we are afraid, often very greatly so. How can we be secured from the dread of men and things which so easily besets us? We must be absolutely right with God. — To walk in God's statutes, and keep his commandments, was the first condition of Israel's immunity from fear. When we know that there is no cause of controversy between us and God, we feel able to count confidently on his protection and deliverance. "Perfect love casteth out fear." We must count on God's faithfulness. — He has put us where we are, and we dare not think He will withdraw from us, as Joab did from Uriah. We are his partners, summoned to co-operate with Him: will He allow us to incur responsibilities in his name, and then leave the burden on our unassisted resources? Fear will yield before a clear sense of God's might; but it is still more likely to yield before a deep sense of God's perfect faithfulness. We must rely on the environment of angel keepers. — When David, during his flight before Absalom, slept in the open, he believed that the Angel of the Lord encamped around him. More are they which are for us than those that be against us. The mountain is full of horses and chariots of fire. Lord, open our eyes that we may see! We must believe that our enemies are less formidable than they seem. — They surround us with their bluster and threatenings, they come against us in embattled array; but if we dare to go forward and do the right thing in the sight of God, they will vanish like a puff of smoke. "For, lo, the kings assembled themselves.... They were arrayed, they were dismayed, they hasted away."

F.B. Meyer Devotionals on Leviticus ([http://preceptaustin.org/leviticus\\_sermon\\_illustrations\\_2.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/leviticus_sermon_illustrations_2.htm))

7 You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. 8 five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

- God promises the one who chooses to obey and live their life His way, a "supernatural and powerful victory" over their enemies.
- Also, we see here how that a blessed life is marked by; a boldness to pursue and defeat, rather than flee the enemy.
- I suggest to you that when our lives are lived in righteousness, there is a boldness that comes packaged with it, so-to-speak.

**Proverbs 28:1** The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

9 'For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you. 10 You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new.

- God promises that He will look favorably on an obedient life, and because of it, He will make that life both a fruitful and fulfilling one.
- In other words, you will be so fruitful that when the new harvest comes in, you will have to get rid of the old harvest to make room for it.
- A blessed life is marked by, the richness and fullness to which one experiences life, and there is no sorrow that is attached to it.

**Proverbs 10:22** The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

11 I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. 12 I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. 13 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.

- God promises one who chooses to obey Him and live their life in a way that is pleasing to Him, a freedom from the slavery of sin.
- Also, notice that God will Himself walk among those whose life is marked by obedience, which is actually the source of the blessing.
- In other words, if I have all of these things but am not walking with the Lord, it won't be a blessing; it will end up being a curse in life.

**Proverbs 1:19** So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners. NKJV

14 'But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, 15 and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, 16 I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. 17 I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you.

- We round a corner as God goes from listing all of the blessings of an obedient life, to all the curses that come from the disobedient life.  
- He says; "but if you do not obey Me," then this is what I will do to you as these curses come upon you, and then He lists them.

1. Sudden Terror	2. Wasting Diseases	3. Blindness	4. Draining life	5. Working in vain
6. Loss of Profit	7. God Opposes	8. Enemy Defeats	9. Enemy Rules	10. On the Run

18'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 19 I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. 20 And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.

- This is interesting because it seems as if God is increasing the severity of their punishment when He says; "and after all this."  
- He tells them that He will punish them seven times more for their sins, and then lists for them what He will do in addition.

1. Will be Broken	2. No Rain	3. Hard Ground	4. Strength Spent	5. No Yield
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21'Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. 22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate. 23'And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, 24 then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins. 25 And I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. 26 When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.

- It just keeps getting worse. Now God goes from punishing them seven times more to bringing on them seven times more plagues.

1. Robbed of Wealth (Children)	2. Devoured by Beasts	3. Plagued	4. Cut Off	5. Dissatisfaction
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27'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, 28 then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. 29 You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. 30 I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols; and My soul shall abhor you. 31 I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas. 32 I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it. 33 I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. 34 Then the land shall enjoy its sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies' land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its sabbaths. 35 As long as it lies desolate it shall rest --for the time it did not rest on your sabbaths when you dwelt in it.

- God is saying that the punishment for their sins would be so unspeakably horrific that they would even resort to cannibalism.  
- Sadly, 2 Kings 6:26-29 records how the curse of cannibalism here in verse 29 literally came to pass because of Israel's disobedience.

36'And as for those of you who are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; the sound of a shaken leaf shall cause them to flee; they shall flee as though fleeing from a sword, and they shall fall when no one pursues. 37 They shall stumble over one another, as it were before a sword, when no one pursues; and you shall have no power to stand before your enemies. 38 You shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up. 39 And those of you who are left shall waste away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; also in their fathers' iniquities, which are with them, they shall waste away.

- For the ones who survive up to this point and are left, they will be so traumatized that paranoia will set in with a faintness and fear.  
- They will become so fearful that they will flee when no one is even pursuing them, and there will be confusion amongst them.

40'But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me,<sup>41</sup> and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt --<sup>42</sup> then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land.<sup>43</sup> The land also shall be left empty by them, and will enjoy its sabbaths while it lies desolate without them; they will accept their guilt, because they despised My judgments and because their soul abhorred My statutes.<sup>44</sup> Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God.<sup>45</sup> But for their sake I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.'" <sup>46</sup> These are the statutes and judgments and laws which the LORD made between Himself and the children of Israel on Mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

- Here we see the grace and goodness of God in that if they confessed their sins, God would be merciful to them and forgive them.
- Also, it's important to note that God doesn't forsake Israel He only allows curses upon Israel when they disobeyed His commands.
- In other words, God will still chastise and discipline us as His children just as a father disciplines his child when they are disobedient.

- Perhaps the question is; "do these curses apply to us?" Yes and no. Yes in the sense that breaking God's law brings a curse upon us.
- No in the sense that Jesus Christ took that curse upon Himself instead of us. Let me hasten to say that there are still consequences.
- Just as breaking the law of gravity has consequences, so too does breaking God's law have consequences as well.